

P.O. Box 337
Talkeetna AK 99676

May 2, 2001

DCED Attn: Division of Community and Business Development
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: In response to the draft report on the amended petition to incorporate the City of Talkeetna

It is difficult to find a place to begin to detail all the problems that exist in the proposal to incorporate the City of Talkeetna. I believe that the DCED should recommend to the LBC that the petition be denied. An abundance of evidence in support of this decision is contained within this draft report. Major issues have been raised by concerned landowners, such as myself, local business owners such as Murray Nash and Gene Jenne, and also by experts such as Public Works Director Jim Swing, and Public Safety Director Kevin Koechlein. The DCED itself has pointed out many faults in the proposal that need to be corrected. The views expressed are not merely opinions, but cold hard facts. I believe it is the duty of the DCED to require the petitioners to acknowledge these issues and to make alterations to the proposal before it can be approved.

The issues of which I speak I will mention only briefly, since I am certain that the reader is familiar with the draft report. Public Works Director Jim Swing has voiced concerns about the fracturing of RSA #29, and he has stated that the MSB Public Works Department does not believe that it is prudent for the city to assume responsibility for solid waste disposal. The Community Development Director points out that road maintenance should include parking and that there is no budget for animal control services. Public Safety Director Kevin Koechlein mentions the need for the proposed city to develop an emergency plan of its own. He also points out the necessity to budget for animal control needs including licenses, at least a part time person and the costs of required quarantine of animals, and to provide for delivery of animal control services within six months of incorporation. Failure to do so could result in a public safety problem, in his opinion and according to the official view of the DCED. The failure to provide adequate funding for a city manager has been noted by the DCED itself. The DCED also notes that sales tax revenues in the budget may be over-optimistic. The unrealistic budget predictions regarding park and library fees have been recognized by the MSB and the generally unrealistic proposed budget is officially regarded as minimal.

The draft report from the DCED has faults in some areas that need to be addressed. I believe that the Alaska Statutes Sec. 29.05.021 clearly limits Talkeetna from incorporation since no entity can provide evidence that the MSB has failed to provide services adequately. The DCED itself acknowledges this in the draft report I also contend that the need for city government has not been demonstrated. (3AAC 110.010) This is clear since the DCED itself states in the report that services are currently being adequately provided by the MSB. No increased efficiency or efficacy could be provided by incorporation due to the splitting of RSA#29, the failure to adopt solid waste services, etc... I am baffled as to how the DCED can disregard so many pertinent issues.

I urge the DCED staff to reconsider its position in this matter. Please make changes to the draft report to reflect the needs and wishes of the residents of this community and the requirements of the law.

Sincerely,



Mr. Zachary Blumner